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DEPARTMENT OF STATE/A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY EBRoach DATE 1/20/83
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
E.S AUTH. REASON(S)
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DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
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TO : DOD/ISA/IA - Mr. Joe Bacelia

FROM : INM/P - Paul J. Glasco

SUBJECT: Narcotics Background and Talking Points for the Visit of U.S. Air Force Chief Louis Allen to Colombia, December 7 - 9, 1981

Background Because 70 percent of the marijuana and at least 50 percent of the cocaine illegally exported to U.S. markets is produced/processed in or transits Colombia, the USG, through the State Department, is funding a substantial cooperative drug interdiction program with the GOC. In spite of problems presentd by extensive borders, limited resources and the lack of firm GOC control throughout the country, the GOC has been cooperative.

In 1980 the GOC replaced the Colombian armed forces with the National Police as the agency with the primary responsibility for anti-narcotics efforts. The military remains as chief coordinator of these activities and offers logistic support to enforcement agencies. The State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics Matters (INM) through a FY 1980 Congressionally mandated $16 million narcotics control program for Colombia is providing funds for

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the National Police, the Customs Service and the Office of the Attorney General as well as for the armed forces. $2.44 million of these monies is funding overhauls and purchasing spare parts for Colombian Air Force (FAC) helicopters.

In return, the FAC has given logistic support to GOC narcotics enforcement agencies and has performed reconnaissance and surveillance flights to restrict clandestine movement by trafficking aircraft over Colombian territory. One disturbing note is that there are increasing reports that Colombian guerrilla groups are utilizing drug trafficking as a source of income to pay for arms shipments.

Talking Points

-- We view seriously the potentially dangerous threat posed by any links between guerrilla groups and drug traffickers.

-- The efficient and timely manner in which the FAC has carried out its anti-narcotics support role is greatly appreciated.

-- Especially vital to this effort is the FAC-provided airlift support for the GOC National Police working

in areas where the terrain precludes overland support.

-- The FAC's Apiay Base Commander in particular has effectively supported the GOC Office of Attorney General in its operations against coca cultivation and processing.

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